

Duff Green to Andrew Jackson, July 8, 1827, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

DUFF GREEN TO JACKSON.

Washington, July 8, 1827.

Dear Sir. The multiplied duties of my office have kept me so much engaged that, I have not indulged myself in writing letters as I should do. You have been of the number neglected. You will however permit me through you to tender to mrs Jackson the congratulations of a sincere friend on the satisfactory and conclusive vindication of her innocence which has been presented to the public by the Nashville Committee. To a lady of her great sensibility the knowledge of her own innocence would bring much consolation but that sensibility must have been the more acute when she saw that the e[n]venomed shafts of malice were aimed at her on your account. Let her rejoice—her vindication is complete—the voice of slander is hushed—and she must be gratified to know that your magnanimity to her is rightly appreciated by an intelligent public, That so far from impairing the confidence of the people in you this attack has made you many friends. I am aware of the delicacy of the subject and under other circumstances would be last to intrude such remarks upon your notice but I have not been without my share of difficulty in this matter, I saw the necessity of bringing home the matter to mr Adams' own family and by threats of retaliation drove the Journal¹ to condemn itself.

¹ The *Daily National Journal*, administration organ.

This you have no doubt seen and understood. The effect here was like electricity. The whole Adams corps were thrown into consternation—soon they had no doubt that I would

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execute my threat and I was denounced in the most bitter terms for assailing *female* character by those very men who had rolled the slanders on Mrs. J. under their tongues as the sweetest morsel that had been dressed up by Peter Force and Co during the whole campaign. It was plainly hinted that my paper must not be taken at the public offices and *some* of those who have been suspected of Jacksonism were weak enough to discontinue, and some others to threaten me with a meeting of your friends to disavow any approbation of my remarks unless I would make some apology!! I put them at once at defiance—told them that they had done nothing for the support of the cause—that I had never looked to their fears or their hopes for counsel, and that I looked to the people and *not* to the attachees of the palace for approbation. The gentlemen were check mated and some of them have bowed to me most politely since—especially if no spies are near when we meet.

I find that I have dwelt much more at large on this unpleasant topic than I intended. One great object in addressing you this is to say that I suspect Mr Monroe is apprised that you have discovered his treachery to you and is desirous to lend the influence of his name to promote the reelection of Mr Adams. I am told that numerous documents in relation to the Campaign of 1814–15 have been furnished him from the War Department and that he and Southard have been in active correspondence. Is it not probable that the late notice of your correspondence with Southard, in the National Intelligenc[er] is intended to provoke a publication on your part, so as to give Mr Monroe an opportunity to retract? If this conjecture be right it would appear to me proper that Monroe's former treachery (for I can call it by no other name) should be exposed. How much did the sight of that letter change my opinion of the man!!

I have written to Doctor Wallace to send me a copy of your correspondence, that I may be prepared to act. I shall endeavor to do the best I can and altho I will not unnecessarily bring Mr Monroe into the controversy—if he obtrudes himself he will find me prepared to do him ample justice.

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I feel the want of confidential friends and advisers. I have a few fast friends who are true, and ready to aid with advice but there are but two or three in whose opinions I can confide. Our atmosphere is infected—those in office breathe upon permission of the President and his influence is felt in every workshop in the city. It will not do for me to receive my impulses from such sources. I should soon sink even below Gales and Seaton were I to do so.

Your friend